

Rio braces for more violence
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WikiLeaks damage pg 2

600,000 die each year from
passive smoking pg 7

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Saturday, November 27, 2010

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Everyone is invited to San Nicolas Day 2010
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SAN NICOLAS -- San Nicolas Day is an event that unites people to instill awareness, development and appreciation for all the achievements, talents and potentials in our society, as shown in our contributions of the past, our exemplary people of today and our youth who are the future of

San Nicolas says a spokesperson of the SNAP (San Nicolas Awareness Platform) organization.

The event is a celebration with the view on a revitalized San Nicolas, reinvigorated, with new vibes, inspired to demonstrate a social unity, mutual solidarity, and civil action

to so culminate in a dignified level of wellbeing and mutual respect

San Nicolas Day is a focal point where we all will share with our co-citizens the social inspiration to improve our lives in a positive and festive atmosphere

Today Saturday November 27, is San Nicolas Day. This year the celebration is bigger, there are more activities and more food to enjoy.

The event starts at 10:00 a.m. with a visit at the SABA elderly home. The fair for the public in general starts at 6:00 p.m. until midnight.

Everything will be taking place the field in front of the Joe Laveist Sport Park, inside the Joe Laveist Sport Park and the YMCA. The road will be closed from the crossing of the Weg Seroe Preto and Pastoor Hendrikstraat up to the Paulus School.

Continued on page 3

Dr. Davis and Marian Martin
honored at the Holiday Inn
Sun Spree Resort



Recently at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort Dr. Davis and Marian Martin were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba, for their 10 consecutive vacation visit here. Aruba Tourism Authority Rep. Ricardo Croes handed them a beautiful certificate thanking them for their love and loyalty to our island. Photo shows the honorees with Mr. Croes and also Brenda from the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort

BUVO to move on Nov 29

ORANJESTAD – On Monday, November 29, Aruba Bureau of Information, BUVO, will be moving from Zoutmanstraat 1 to L.G. Smith Blvd. 26. The moving is in connection with the government's plans to renovate the Zoutmanstraat's building.

Because of this the BUVO office will be closed for internal as well as external services. On Wednesday, December 1, BUVO will function normally again from its office in the L.G. Smith Blvd 26. The telephone and fax numbers and e-mail remains the same.

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Rio braces for more violence in drug crackdown

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AFP) - Residents of Rio's slums braced for more violence as hundreds of soldiers and police joined a widening crackdown on drug gangs yesterday, that has killed at least 31 people in six days.

Security forces patrolled the entrances to the Vila Cruzeiro slum, a day after military vehicles led by six tank-like M113 armed personnel carriers for the first time penetrated the pock-marked streets run by drug traffickers.

Police said they forced the criminals to flee uphill to another slum, and claimed to have wrested control of the densely populated area back from drug gangs.

Authorities are seeking to impose order on the notoriously violent slums -- known here as favelas -- before Brazil plays host to two of the planet's largest sporting events: the World Cup in 2014 and the Olympics two years later.

TV helicopters filmed scores of armed men scrambling up the surrounding hills toward the Morro do Alemão favela at the height of Thursday's crackdown.



Riot policemen pass by a burnt truck during operations inside Vila Cruzeiro shantytown in Rio de Janeiro

Roberto Sa, a senior official with the state of Rio de Janeiro, said that soldiers were surrounding the area and police were patrolling the entrances to Morro do Alemão to prevent the traffickers from escaping.

Sa told reporters that there were no immediate plans to storm Morro do Alemão, but Rio state security chief Jose Beltrame later said that security forces could go "wherever we want... at any time we please" -- a threat aimed at keeping the drug gangs off-balance.

Beltrame spoke at a press

conference along with Governor Sergio Cabral, the head of Brazil's military, Army General Jose Carlos De Nardi, and Defense Minister Nelson Jobim.

Jobim has authorized the use of 10 military armored vehicles, two Air Force helicopters and 800 soldiers, to be added to the 17,500 police officers already engaged in the crackdown. Some 300 federal police were also dispatched to bolster local forces.

The dramatic crackdown against gangs that have terrorized the resort city for years has received widespread support.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and president-elect Dilma Rousseff both voiced support for the police sweep and offered federal backing.

Many residents welcomed what they said was long-overdue action to combat the gangs. A record number of calls flooded a hotline as locals tried to help authorities nab gang suspects.

Police have said they are battling two drug gangs that have joined forces seeking to disrupt a two-year-old favela pacification program.

US rushes to contain new WikiLeaks damage

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States raced yesterday to contain the fallout from the looming release of millions of sensitive diplomatic cables by the WikiLeaks, warning governments around the world of embarrassing disclosures.

US diplomats headed to foreign ministries in hopes of staving off anger if the whistleblower website puts out the leaked cables, which are internal messages that lack the niceties that diplomats generally voice in public.

The documents, the third tranche since WikiLeaks published 77,000 classified US

files on the Afghan conflict in July, could affect some of the most sensitive US relationships including with Russia, Israel and Turkey.

"We are worried about additional documents coming out," US ambassador to Baghdad James Jeffrey told reporters. "WikiLeaks are an absolutely awful impediment to my business, which is to be able to have discussions in confidence with people. I do not understand the motivation for releasing these documents."

"They will not help, they will simply hurt our ability to do our work here."

Jeffrey said Iraqi officials were "very unhappy" about the release.

"Anybody who has confidential discussions, who finds these confidential discussions find their way into the press, is going to be very unhappy and very upset," he said.

Pope makes five million euros from books

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI has made around five million euros (6.6 million dollars) from royalties on his books since he was elected pope in 2005, Vatican officials said yesterday.

Some 2.4 million euros of the proceeds will finance research on the pope's own theological teachings through a Vatican foundation in his name.

The Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI foundation was set up earlier this year to "promote research and studies on the thinking of professor Joseph Ratzinger."

The rest of the money will go to charity, officials said.

A book of interviews with Benedict in which he talks candidly about issues including sexuality and child abuse was released this week and is selling fast.

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San Nicolas Day 2010 Everyone is invited...

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baby Beach

In the morning hours there will a full program with recreational and sport activities for the kids with demonstrations and competitions of boxing, martial arts, volleyball, athletics, and domino and checkers games.

At the YMCA there will be a small expo of San Nicolas artisans, a video on the sports career of Gabby Illidge and volley and basketball matches.

In front of the entrance of the sport park there will be a Caribbean Culinary with lots of food and drinks, showcasing the ethnic background of San Nicolas, offering among others Johnny Cake with Salt Fish, curry dishes, different stews, tarts, sugar cakes, Mauby, special bush tea and all the other Caribbean culinary dishes San Nicolas is so famous for.

There will be an "Awareness Tent" with all kinds of information on the organizations that operate in and for San Nicolas (community, educational, social, sportive, recreational and commercial). This to inform the community accordingly and instill awareness of everything San Nicolas has to offer.

In the streets of San Nicolas there will be a march by different community groups, sports organizations, drum bands, and Classic Cars that will transporting this year's honourees.

At 6:00 p.m. sharp the festive part of the celebration starts in front of the Joe Laveist Sport Park



A representative of the ministry of Culture will honor some V.A.P, for their contribution to San Nicolas,

Afterwards there will be different presentations to entertain the public with music and poetry and dances.

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KLM to sell rides on XCOR's rocket plane

WILLEMSTAD, Curaçao -- As part of its frequent flier program, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will be offering future suborbital flights on a rocket plane to outer space.

The airline said yesterday that it would market and sell flights to customers through a joint venture with Space Experience Curaçao, a government-backed space tourism company founded on the Caribbean island.

"KLM will be supporting future suborbital flights through purchases, inclusion in their frequent flyer program, inclusion in future KLM vacation packages to Curaçao, and other yet-to-be-named support," the airline said in a statement.

In early October, Space Experience Curaçao announced that it had struck an agreement with XCOR Aerospace Inc., a

Mojave-based commercial space company, to launch its rocket plane from the island and take adventure seekers to more than 327,000 feet, or 62 miles, above the Earth's surface.

At that suborbital altitude, passengers experience weightlessness and see the curvature of the Earth. The experience takes place aboard a piloted two-seat, rocket-powered space plane called the Lynx. The cost of the short joy ride? \$98,000.

Curaçao hopes its commercial airport can become a spaceport as early as 2014. The island is an ideal locale for space trips because of its small population, heavy traffic of tourists and picturesque landscape, with its ice-blue ocean and lush countryside, XCOR has said.

Isaiah 26 : 4

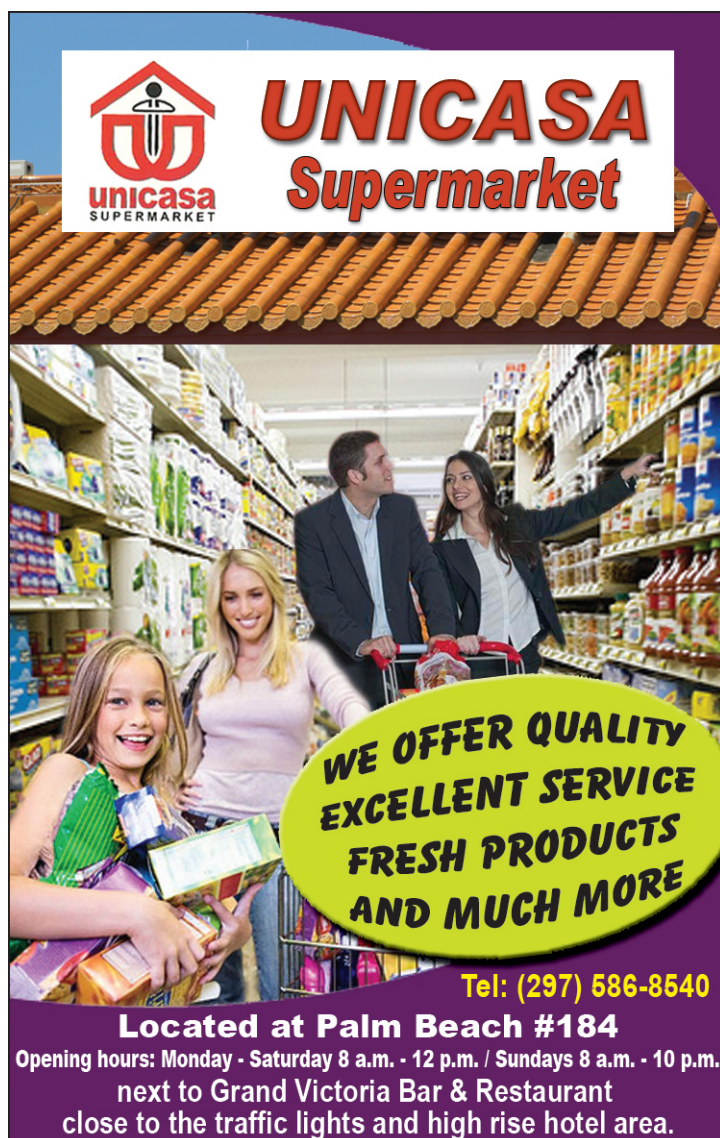
Trust ye in the Lord forever for the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

We are thankful and appreciate everyone who in one way or the other showed compassion or attention to the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother



Mrs. Ennis Esther Telesford

On behalf of her children and family



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Venezuela to rebuild Colombian bridge



BOGOTA, Colombia -- The Venezuelan government will replace a bridge in the Colombian town of Tibu that was allegedly destroyed by guerrillas this past weekend, Colombia's defense minister said Thursday.

The bridge, that connected the town of Tibu with the Colombian city of Cucuta, was destroyed by a car bomb.

According to Defense

Minister Rodrigo Rivera, his Venezuelan counterpart called him to say that the Venezuelan will reconstruct the bridge in "solidarity" with Colombia, which is struggling to deal with a extremely severe rainy season.

According to Rivera, the Venezuelan decision is the result of the recent improving of relations between Colombia and Venezuela.

Love & Life Unexpected result in Keith and Julie's Aruba nuptials



"Being on Aruba to marry is an absolute fairy tale for me," confesses Julie of Ohio, "I never expected to find love at this time in my life." She looked over at her groom Keith Wengerd and touched his cheek as Reverend Bob Gibson invited them to recite their vows as the sun dipped below the horizon on Thursday evening, November 25 at the Manchebo Beach Resort.

Keith too deeply feels it is particularly a day of thanksgiving; he also had given up on finding someone to grow old with who would complete his life, so this year, the holiday took on a very special meaning for them both as was a natural choice as their wedding day.

Keith and Julie had former marriages and were pretty well finished raising seven children between them, figuring life was done for them in that department. Then one day, Julie went on a job interview and sat across a desk from Keith.

"I felt an instant attraction," recalls Keith, "I never imagined she felt it too. It was so overwhelming that a colleague who spotted me interviewing Julie even commented on it; there was something in my eyes or my body language that gave me away."

"She must have been pretty perceptive," comments Julie, "because I had no idea."

Julie ended up working one week in the lab where Keith was a manager, but found the environment caused a violent allergic reaction causing her to develop a skin condition, so she had to quit and go to another job. No



longer being co-workers gave Keith the green light to pursue her, and he proposed within three months.

"I never forgot that Beach Boys song - 'Aruba, Jamaica, ooohh I wanna take ya,'" he laughs. "It always sounded so exotic."

Julie and Keith agree that Aruba has fulfilled every wedding fantasy they had; it is as exotic as they imagined, despite the grey, cloudy day of the shore side nuptials. "At least it isn't raining; we are here together and everything is perfect."

The skies may have been grey, but Keith and Julie were so aglow with love and joy they lit up the darkening beach as they whispered their vows in each others ear and



held on to each other as if they had found the greatest treasure on earth. A private toast at Passions on the Beach followed their simple, poignant spiritual ceremony, and they celebrated their love and life unexpected!

by Rosalie Klein

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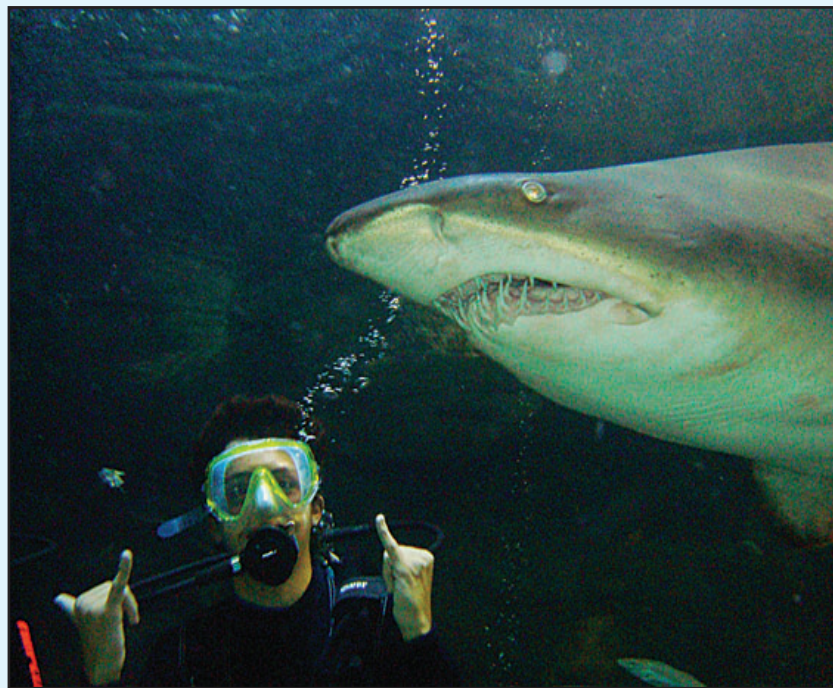


“Scuba diving and Sharks”

Scuba diving is a relaxing activity that connects the human with the marine creatures. Also, in the psychological level is a huge benefit in relationship of the individual with the aquatic environment making the diver a more peaceful person and lack of stress. Nothing can be compare with the sensation that results from this unforgettable experience.

Aruba has many different dive sites and dive centers such as S.E. Aruba Fly and Dive, Mermaid Divers and Unique Sports of Aruba that will introduce you to scuba diving in Aruba.

Like many species, sharks had been discriminated since they were shown as the most ruthless and evil beings of nature in the movies. Now the reality is different. Since I was 4 years old I've been around sharks from playing with street sharks toys during childhood to touching them



in SeaWorld. Nevertheless, countries like Australia and Micronesia are the paradise for shark divers like me. Indeed, the maximum individuals I dove with more than two hundred sharks in a beautiful dive site called blue corner in Micronesia, located 2,900 km north of eastern Australia.

Scientist found out that the well known great white shark chooses their prey based on

the amount of calories that they contain. Thus, prefer to eat fish, seals and sea lions. This intelligent creature has a very good view and even sees in color. In fact, is more common to be sting by bees than eaten by sharks.

On the other hand, the whale shark is one of the largest fish in the world. This filter feeding creature is peaceful like a cloud suspended in the sky. They are



seen at least twice a year in Antilla wreck for lucky divers. Personally, it is possible to say that the whale shark is the most friendly shark that I dove with it and it was one of my dream dives since I became a diver.

If you enjoy watching finding Nemo, imagine yourself diving around turtles in Arashi or discover the amazing Antilla wreck in a short trip by boat to admire this underwater delights.

Needless to say, don't be afraid of sharks they are more

afraid from you. In Aruba, sharks are not seen very often in contrast to Australia, Micronesia and the Bahamas where they are commonly seen.

In addition, become a diver and explore the underwater world that is there for you to see and protect for further generations to come.

By Gino Giannone
 Open Water Scuba Instructor
 Underwater Photographer
 and Videographer
 Godiving2010@hotmail.com

Sci-Tech

Scientists find eyeless cave fish in Indonesia's Papua



JAKARTA (AFP) - Eyeless cave fish and a frog that carries its offspring on its back are among the new species a team of scientists have discovered in Indonesia's eastern Papua region.

The researchers from the Institute of Research and Development (IRD) in Montpellier, southern France, studied caves, underground rivers and jungles in the remote Lengguru area of New Guinea island.

"In terms of discoveries almost everything remains to be done in this area, which is very difficult to access but which has exceptionally rich biodiversity," IRD scientist Laurent Pouyaud told AFP.

For seven weeks, the team including biologists, paleontologists and archaeologists explored the vast limestone "labyrinth" where species have evolved in isolation for millions of years.

In one previously undocumented cave they found a new species of fish which had developed without eyes or pigmentation.

"This is, to our knowledge, the first cave fish that has been discovered in Papua," Pouyaud said.

The team's archaeologists were "overwhelmed" by cave paintings and tools made of shell which provided further evidence of the ancient migration of people from Asia to the Australian continent some 40,000 years ago, he said.

The research was "the first step" in an ongoing project to study the region's biodiversity in conjunction with the Indonesian maritime affairs ministry and Institute of Sciences.

Papua's biodiversity is at risk from plans to expand plantations and mining operations in the area, Pouyaud said.

'Fourth generation' Internet arrives in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) - The latest generation of wireless Internet that will allow people to watch a crystal clear movie or live sporting event on the street or atop a hill is being deployed throughout Hong Kong.

The Long Term Evolution (LTE) network will give super high speeds across the city and could mean the end of computers ever needing to be plugged into a wall for a connection to the net.

The so-called "fourth generation" system is being rolled out by Hong Kong mobile network operator CSL in partnership with telecoms equipment maker ZTE Corporation.

"The first launch of an LTE network any place in Asia is truly historic," Joseph O'Konek, CSL's chief executive, told AFP.

"For a lot of people, this

will be their first experience of the Internet. They are at a huge advantage to previous Internet generations because they are leapfrogging all those fixed line technologies.

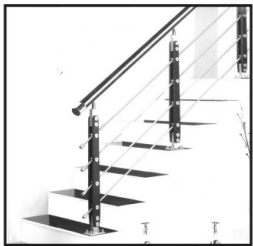



"It is truly going to unleash the power of human networks as this kind of system rolls out more and more across the world."

LTE enables faster data downloads and uploads on mobile devices compared with a third-generation network.

The system will give speeds of up to 100 megabits per second (Mbps) and should make the high quality viewing of full length movies or realtime live sporting events possible anywhere in the city.

LTE networks are already operating in Europe, Scandinavia and North America.

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'Fallout: New Vegas' ups the ante with downloads



Screengrab issued by Bethesda Softworks shows a scene from the videogame "Fallout 3," a post-apocalyptic gaming adventure

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Bethesda Softworks is building on the rock star debut of "Fallout: New Vegas" with the December release of a new chapter of the epic videogame exclusively for play on Xbox 360 consoles.

"Dead Money" software that builds on post-apocalyptic adventures in "New Vegas" will be available for download at console-maker Microsoft's online Xbox Live service beginning December 21.

"The release of 'Dead Money' illustrates our commitment to creating entertaining add-on content for players to enjoy in already massive games," said Bethesda vice president of marketing Pete Hines.

Videogame studios are increasingly selling "downloadable content" that augments game play in titles bought on packaged compact disks.

"New Vegas" predecessor "Fallout 3" was crowned Game of the Year after its release in 2008 and proved so popular that Bethesda expanded the action title with adventures in an array of downloadable software.

A "Broken Steel" addition to "Fallout 3" even modified the end of the original game to resurrect the hero, who had sacrificed himself for the sake of other survivors in the post nuclear war scenario.

"New Vegas" sold more than five million copies in the three weeks following its release on October 19, taking in "well over 300 million dollars," according to Bethesda.

The videogame was ranked by industry tracker NPD Group as the best-selling title for consoles and for personal computers in October.

"We recognize that there are many high-quality games that come out during this time of year," said Bethesda president Vlatko Andonov.

"We couldn't be more pleased at how well the game has been received."

"New Vegas" is the fourth title in a winning franchise launched in 1997.

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Health & Living

600,000 die each year from passive smoking: study



PARIS (AFP) – Second-hand tobacco smoke kills upward of 600,000 people every year, nearly a third of them children, according to a first-ever global assessment released Friday.

Unlike "lifestyle" diseases, which stem largely from individual choice, the victims of passive smoking pay the ultimate price for the health-wrecking behaviour of others, especially family members.

Among non-smokers worldwide, 40 percent of children, 35 percent of women and 33 percent of men were exposed to second-hand smoke in 2004, the most recent year for which data was available across the 192 countries examined.

When added to the 5.1 million fatalities attributable to active smoking, the final death toll from tobacco for

2004 was more than 5.7 million people, the study concluded.

Nearly half the passive-smoking deaths occurred in women, with the rest divided almost equally between children and men, said the study, published in the British medical journal The Lancet.

Some 60 percent were caused by heart disease and 30 percent by lower respiratory infections, followed by asthma and lung cancer.

All told, passive smoking accounted for fully one percent of worldwide mortality in 2004.

Adult deaths caused by second-hand tobacco were spread evenly across the spectrum of poor-to-rich nations.

But for children, poverty made things much worse, the study found.

The adult-to-child ratio of

fatalities in high-income Europe, for example, was 35,388 to 71.

The ratio in Africa was nearly reversed: 9,514 to 43,375.

"Children's exposure to second-hand smoke most likely happens at home," the researchers noted. "Infectious diseases and tobacco seems to be a deadly combination."

The tragedy of children felled by others' smoke is even greater when calculated in years of life lost, rather than lives lost.

One reason twice as many non-smoking women die is simply because they outnumber their male counterparts by 60 percent.

But they are also, in the developing world, 50 percent more likely to be exposed to harmful smoke.

Passing and enforcing smoke-free laws for public spaces could significantly reduce passive smoking mortality and health care costs, said lead researcher Annette Pruss-Ustun.

Currently, only a small fraction -- 7.4 percent -- of the world population lives in areas with serious smoke-free laws, and even in these jurisdictions compliance is spotty.

Where laws are enforced, exposure to second-hand smoke in high-risk settings such as bars and restaurants is cut by 90 percent, earlier research has shown.

Anti-smoking regulations also lower cigarette consumption, and improve one's chances of kicking the habit.

The researchers recommend fully applying the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which includes tobacco tax hikes, advertising bans, and the use of nondescript packaging.

"There can be no question that the 1.2 billion smokers in the world are exposing billions of non-smokers to second-hand smoke, a disease-causing indoor pollutant," note Heather Wipfli and Jonathan Samet of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

"Broad initiatives are needed to motivate families to put their own policies into place to reduce exposure ... at home," they say in a commentary, also in The Lancet.

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Danish experts cook up high-protein anti-obesity diet



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Danish researchers have come up with a recipe for preventing and treating obesity: a diet high in proteins and low in refined starches such as white bread and white rice.

Researchers from the Faculty of Life Sciences (LIFE), University of Copenhagen, compared official European dietary recommendations with a diet based on more recent knowledge on the importance of proteins and carbohydrates for appetite regulation.

Details of the project, code-name "Diogenes," appear in the November 25 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

"If you want to lose weight," read a statement announcing the research, "you should maintain a diet that is high in proteins with more lean meat, low-fat dairy products and beans and fewer finely refined starch calories such as white bread and white rice."

"With this diet, you can also eat until you are full without counting calories and without gaining weight," read the statement.

A total of 772 European families participated in the study, comprising 938 adult family members and 827 children. The families had at least a child between the ages of five and 17 years in good health, and a parent between the ages of 18 and 65.

The overweight adults at first followed an eight-week diet and lost an average of 11 kilos (24 pounds).

Participants were then randomly assigned to one of five different low-fat diet types which they followed for six months, to test which diet was most effective at preventing a regain of weight.

Throughout the project, dietitians gave the families help, and asked them to provide blood and urine samples.

The children's study, published separately in the US journal Pediatrics, covered 827 children, 45 percent of whom were overweight. After following their parent's diet the rate obesity dropped by 15 percent.

The researchers conclude that the official European dietary recommendations "are not sufficient for preventing obesity."

TIP: Burn the boredom during exercise



Rev up your metabolism by alternating your speed and intensity during aerobic workouts. Not only should you alternate your routine to prevent burnout or boredom, but to give your body a jolt. If you normally walk at 6.5km/h on the treadmill or take 15 minutes to walk a km, up the pace by going at 8km/h for a minute or

so during your workout. Do this every five minutes or so. Each time you work out, increase your bouts of speed in small increments.

EPB Oranjestad with project for *Club 60+ den movecion*



Club 60+ den movecion

In connection with the project "Good for the Neighborhood," sponsored by Aruba Bank N.V., third grade students of the EPB Oranjestad are making a bench for the senior citizens of the Club 60+ den movecion (formerly known as Kibrahacha). "Enjoyment has no age" is the club's moto.

The students are in full swing with their project, which is geared towards our senior citizens of all districts of Aruba who meet every day at the Club 60+ den movecion.

Here the members meet each other to share different physical, educative and recreational activities. The club is very active and offers the 60 plussers lost of activities. According to the EPB Oranjestad students, they want to help the Club 60+ den movecion "because our senior citizens deserve it, they worked hard for the well being of Aruba."

They want for the senior citizens to spend a nice morning with each other. Also they feel that most of the time there is only attention for the youth, but only a few think on the 60 plussers. So to sup-



port the center's activities, they decided to make a bench for its members to sit on.

It is made of pure wood in the form of the island of Aruba and seats two. The back of the bench will represent a monument of our island (the Light House, Water Tower, or Fort Zoutman). In the middle of the bench they will paint a game for members to play, in other words, a very creative project.

The EPI Oranjestad third grade students hope that our senior citizens will have a merry time with this bench.

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other in-



Grandma's stoba with classic rice & beans and homemade potato beet salad

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

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Aruba flashes its best



photo courtesy of Adrian Brijbassi Toronto Star

PALM BEACH, ARUBA — Caribbean resorts are products for the mass market. As such, they tend to not take many chances with aesthetics or atmosphere. They're meant to please large crowds and that means lots of Elton John on the sound system, bingo games in the afternoon and buffet breakfasts that don't get adventurous with the cuisine.

Of the big hotel chains, Westin generally gets it right these days. And the Westin Aruba Resort is a winner.

Located on the north end of the prosperous island, it features a weekend magic show, several restaurants, live bands, a reasonably priced spa, and a casino with a sportsbook and numerous slot and table games.

Its most appealing feature is location. The Westin Aruba is on a thin stretch of Palm Beach, meaning guests only have a short walk from the hotel lobby to the warm Caribbean Sea. Plenty of cabana lounge chairs and beach towels are available for guests, and there are numerous family- and couples-friendly activities. Azull offers barefoot fine dining on the beach and fills up fast, so reservations are a must.

Although the Westin is a large hotel, the staff isn't impersonal. In fact, guests say they're the ones who deserve credit for the hotel's 70 per cent annual return rate.

"What makes this place special is the people," says Wayne Stotz of New Jersey. He's visited Aruba for each of the past 25 years and vacationed at the Westin for the past four years. "These people make you feel like family."

His wife, Barbara, says on her most recent visit she received a bottle of wine as a welcome gift, but instead of coming from a hotel manager it was a personal gesture from a bellman.

With bars and restaurants on the premises, the Westin's

guests don't have to venture outside of the resort during the stay. But not exploring would mean missing out on Aruba's best features, including beautiful vistas, a rocky shoreline at the north tip with sublime views of the waves coming in and some excellent local cuisine. Aruban food is a mixture of Caribbean, Dutch and Spanish flavours, and at Nos Cunucu you can find authentic dishes. A huge, satisfying fisherman's platter with red snapper, fishcake, grouper, escargots and a genuine Aruban delicacy, conch sausage, rings in at about \$25.

You can enjoy it with the restaurant's special drink, the Nos Cunucu Punch, a tasty cocktail with rum, vodka, galiano, banana liqueur, Blue Curacao, and orange and pineapple juices.

Nos Cunucu is southeast of Palm Beach, a short drive into the heart of the 193-squarekilometre island that's part of the Dutch kingdom. It's decor is barebones and you'll have to bear the flies, but owner Karel Arends has won over the local residents and is attracting tourists keen to venture away from the resorts.

Nearly three-quarters of Aruba's visitors are Americans, several of whom own weeks at one of the island's many timeshare properties. Despite the bad press the island received in recent years following the disappearance of an Alabama teen while she was on spring break, Aruba continues to draw Americans in droves.

"I viewed it as an isolated incident," Dean Sether of Minnesota says of the 2005 incident involving Natalee Holloway. He came to Aruba to celebrate his 15th wedding anniversary with his wife, Charlene. "We heard so many good things about Aruba from friends and family, and from what we read on the Internet, that we knew this was the place we wanted to go."

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Turkey tycoon Bernard Matthews dies on U.S. Thanksgiving

LONDON, England — Turkey tycoon Bernard Matthews -- the man behind the infamous turkey twizzler -- has died at the age of 80 his company said.

His death came on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day in the U.S., a celebration often referred to as "Turkey Day."

Matthews was one of the first businessmen to personally advertise their products on national television, coining the memorable catchphrase, "they're bootiful" in his rich Norfolk accent.

"He is the man who effectively put turkey on the plates of everyday working families and in so doing became one of the largest employers in rural East Anglia and a major supporter of the local farming community," said the company's chief executive Noel Bartram in a statement.

Matthews, the son of a mechanic, left school at 16 and went on to become a household name, only stepping down as chairman of the company on his 80th birthday early this year.

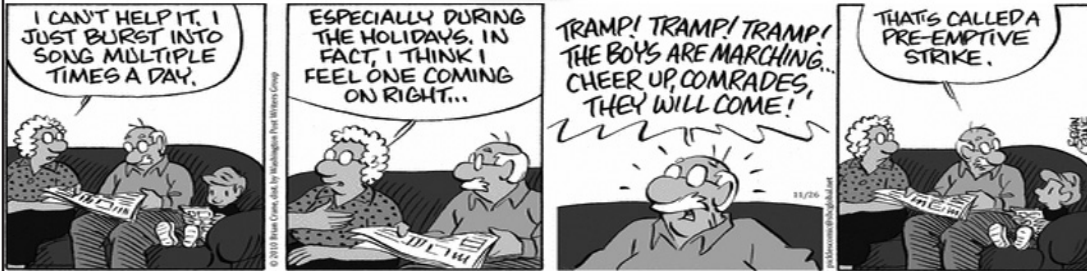
"From simple beginnings, with an initial investment of just 2.50 pounds 60 years ago, Bernard Matthews took the business from 20 turkey eggs and a second-hand paraffin incubator to a successful and thriving multi million pound company," said Bartram.

In recent years his company was dogged by an image problem after the celebrity chef Jamie Oliver maligned turkey twizzlers, one of the company's key product lines. It also was hit hard by the 2007 outbreak of bird flu.



COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Rosary unit
5. Protracted
9. Tramp
13. Actor Davis
17. Stocking material
18. Sacred picture
19. Flat
20. Reprobate
21. Curves
22. A Turner
23. Touch
24. Merit
25. Stained
27. Nightwear for Garfield?
30. Impostor
31. Visit
32. Football's Grange
33. Herb
35. Lascivious look
36. Pondered
41. Ferris wheel, e.g.
42. Plain

43. More attractive

44. Skull
45. "___ Touch of Venus"
46. Strive
47. Marathon participant
48. Besides
49. Stoop
51. Cleric
52. Move slowly
53. Samovar
54. Gulf
55. Sock end
56. Mock
59. Sprite
60. Aromatic seed
64. Years and years
65. Put a load on
66. Thin coin
67. Cry of exultation
68. Scoundrel
69. Shelter
70. Liver paste
71. Stole

72. Bloomed

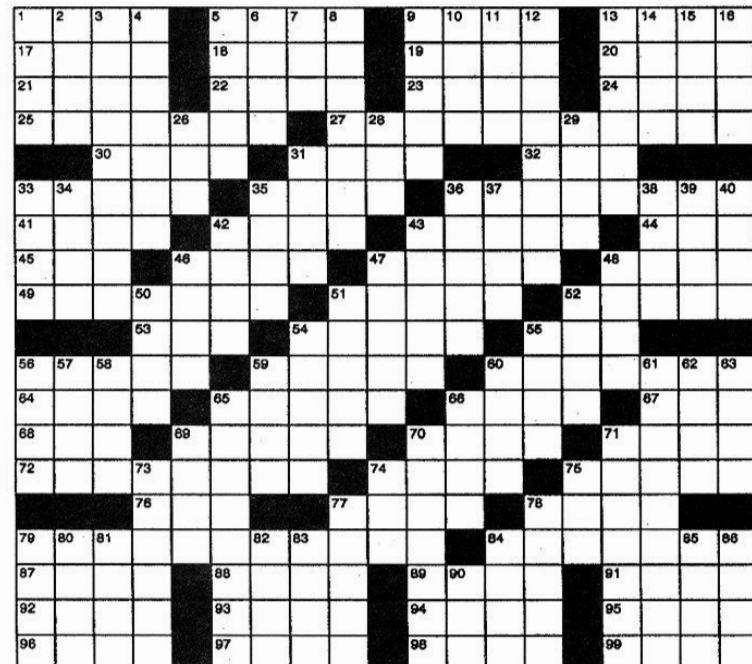
74. Confederate
75. Color again
76. Nettle
77. Fit of fever
78. Mound
79. Thirteen
84. Count Dracula
87. Pizzazz
88. Bolivia's neighbor
89. Performs
91. English essayist
92. Ceramic square
93. Customer
94. Modify
95. Charter
96. Disturbance
97. Origin
98. Count
99. Solicits

DOWN

1. Talk indiscreetly
2. James ___ Jones
3. Honors
4. Predetermine
5. Soda quantity
6. Sour
7. High fashion

8. Legislated

9. Heavy
10. U.S. lithographer
11. Maintain
12. Projection printer
13. Wheat and rye
14. Ramble
15. Atmosphere
16. Bear caves
26. Knot thread
28. Swiss river
29. Scoff
31. Hawk
33. Push
34. Furrow
35. Placed
36. Old gold coin
37. Cato's road
38. Lacquered metal
39. Informality
40. Plunge
42. Beethoven's birthplace
43. Conceal
46. Sea bird
47. Uncompromising
48. Province
50. Mongrels
51. Prancer's partner
52. Heart
54. Remained
55. Gentle
56. Vassal
57. Fossil fuel
58. Being: pref.
59. Surface with tar
60. Metropolis
61. Stacks of logs
62. Nautical greeting
63. Pair of oxen
65. Buttercup's cousin
66. Author Carnegie
69. German gentleman
70. Booty
71. Painting technique
73. Frankfurter
74. Mellow
75. Daiquiri ingredient
77. Light blue
78. Rash
79. Wagers
80. Came to rest
81. Wife of Shiva
82. Lucy's love
83. Bauxite and cinnabar
84. Bridal buy
85. Hockey arena
86. Erodes
90. Work by Keats



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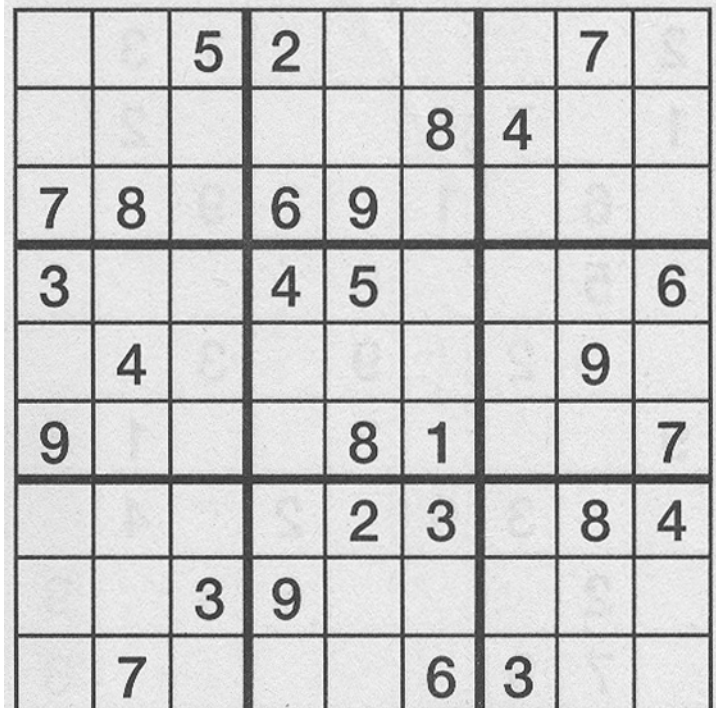
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	9	8	9	1	8	2	7	4
2	1	9	7	4	6	8	5	3
4	8	7	8	2	9	1	6	9
7	4	9	1	8	8	9	2	6
8	6	1	2	9	7	4	8	5
9	2	8	6	9	4	7	1	8
1	8	2	9	6	9	4	8	7
9	9	4	8	7	1	6	8	2
8	7	6	4	8	2	9	9	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance



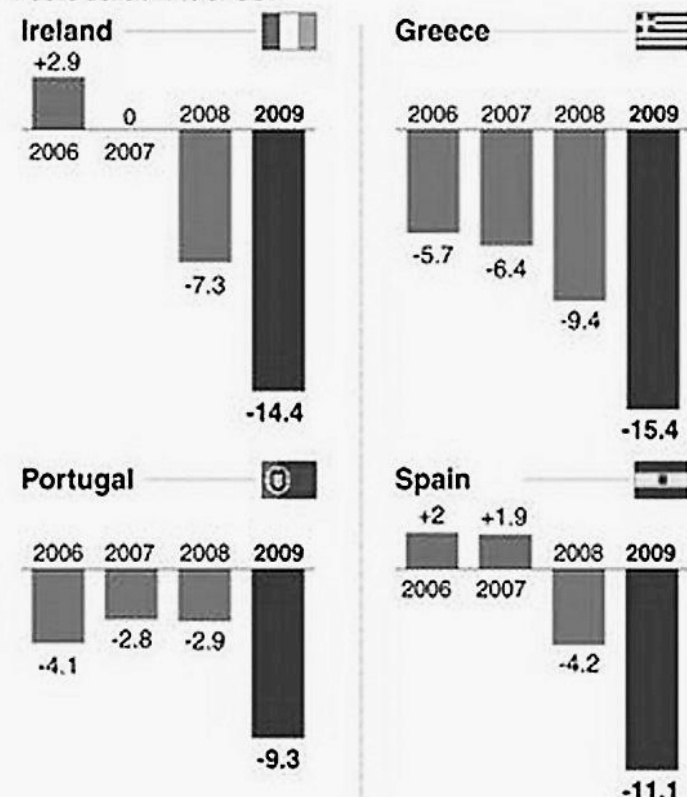
File photo shows people waiting in line at a government employment office at Santa Eugenia's Madrid suburb in January 2010. Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has "absolutely" ruled out an Irish-style rescue for Spain but markets remain unconvinced as borrowing costs for the country hit record highs. (AFP PHOTO)



Shoppers crowd a Best Buy store at dawn during Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving which commences the holiday gift-buying season in Naples, Florida. Hundreds of shoppers spent the night camped in front of the store to be the first ones in when doors opened at 5am. (AFP PHOTO)

Europe's struggling economies

Public deficit in % of GDP



Public deficit in percent of GDP in Ireland, Greece, Portugal and Spain from 2006 to 2009 according to Eurostat.

Wall Street down after rollercoaster week

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Wall Street lurched from gains to losses in a rollercoaster ride this week, amid concerns about the eurozone, tensions on the Korean peninsula and amid a US holiday.

"US equity markets experienced light trade this week due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday, but that trade was volatile due to geopolitical concerns," said analysts at Briefing.com.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell one percent for the week, while the S&P 500 was down 0.7 percent.

The week's trade was dominated by news that Ireland had agreed a 114 billion dollar bailout from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund, in the face of unsustainable borrowing costs.

The publicly vilified bailout prompted the government to call elections early next year, and the fate of an accompanying package of reforms remain in the balance.

Traders initially appeared to take news of the bailout in their stride, but as concerns grew that the crisis may engulf Portugal and even Spain -- one of Europe's largest economies -- traders reduced their risk exposure. That pummeled some banks with large exposure to Europe.

Barclays' US traded shares fell over seven percent during the week. European banks UBS, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse and Royal Bank of Scotland also saw their US share price trounced.

US bank suffered less, but were not immune. Morgan Stanley shares fell 3.5 percent and Citigroup and Bank of America were also hit.

Prime miniser: Portugal can finance itself on the market

LISBON, Portugal (AFP) - Portugal is able to fund its borrowing needs on the market, Prime Minister Jose Socrates insisted yesterday in the face of reports that an outside rescue package might be prepared.

"Portugal has all the conditions to finance itself on the market," Socrates told a meeting with foreign journalists. "I'm confident that the adoption of the state budget will help strengthen market confidence" in the country.

"Europe has work to do and this consists in quickly defining a strategy that will ensure stability in the euro-



The Minions from "Despicable Me" discuss stock tips with traders Frank Masiello (L), and John Santiago at the New York Stock Exchange yesterday, in celebration of NYSE Kids' Day and the December 14th DVD release of "Despicable Me."

US stocks also battled against escalating tensions between North and South Korea.

In one of the most serious border incidents since the 1950s, North Korea fired dozens of shells onto or around a South Korean island near the disputed Yellow Sea border, killing two marines and setting homes ablaze.

A bleak forecast by the Federal Reserve that the US economy will grow at a much slower pace than previously expected next year further jolted trade.

Minutes from the Fed's November meeting, where members decided to renew massive asset purchasing in a bid to boost the economy, showed that growth would be around half a percentage point less than expected this year and in 2011.

Forecasts put forth at the meeting showed that already anemic growth predictions have been slashed to 2.4-2.5 percent this year and 3.0-3.6

percent in the next.

But as consumers started ramping up for the holiday season retailers received a boost from news of increased consumer spending and an improved jobs market.

Positive news came from the jobs market, where US unemployment claims fell more than expected last week by 34,000 from the previous week to 407,000, compounding a choppy, but steady downward trend seen in recent weeks.

Another report showed US consumers earned and spent more in October, raising expectations ahead of the holiday shopping season which traditionally begins on "Black Friday" following Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday.

The news caused the Dow to pop over 150 points up on Thursday, although many of the gains were short lived.

The week ended with a squib yesterday as the Dow fell 95 point in a shortened day's trade.

But tech stocks benefited from the upbeat tone, with the NASDAQ rising 0.7 percent for the week.

Amazon was one of the major beneficiaries, with its stock rising over seven percent. EBay shares were up almost three percent.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Get ready to experience an adrenaline rush like no other
Kite Surfing is an absolute thrill and the latest in extreme sports...



Kite surfing or kiteboarding is a surface water sport that uses the wind to pull a rider through the water on a small surfboard or a kiteboard (similar to a wakeboard). Generally kiteboarding refers to a style of riding known as freestyle or wake-style, whereas kitesurfing is more "wave-riding" oriented. These two styles usually require different boards and specific performance kites.

A kitesurfer or kiteboarder uses a board with or without foot-straps or bindings, combined with the power of a large controllable kite to propel the rider and the board across the water. In 2006, the number of kitesurfers has been estimated at around 150,000 to 210,000, with 114,465 inflatable kites sold that same year.

The sport is becoming safer due to innovations in kite design, safety release systems, and instructions. Riding styles have evolved to suit riders and conditions, such as wakestyle, waveriding, freestyle, freeride, jumping, and cruising.

Kitesurfing started on the island in 1998. Armando Wester, a professional windsurfer and certified instructor, and his buddies were the first ones to introduce Kitesurfing to the island of Aruba.

Since then, they have gotten more than 5,000 visitors and locals hooked on this new adrenaline rush sport.

Their years of experience, the trade winds on the island, the beautiful Caribbean Sea and the latest equipment make it an ideal and safe place for anyone to learn to kite. Kitesurfing is a hybrid of wakeboarding, hand-gliding and windsurfing for a radical new approach of kite power.

Anyone between the ages of 8 and 77 can enjoy this sport.

So don't hesitate to call Armando or visit him at the Fisherman's huts, just north of the Aruba Marriott Resort, and see for yourself what an exhilarating rush this sport really is.

Lessons start daily at 9 a.m., 12 noon or 3 p.m.

Sunday: NFL tail-gate BBQ from 10:30 a.m. Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellowpages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during play-offs and championships, they regularly carry all UFC fights



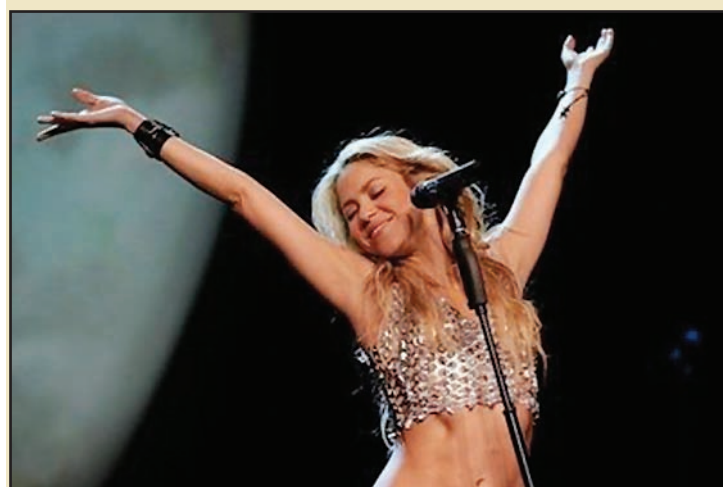
& WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and residents mix and mingle; Monday

to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

by Rosalie Klein

Shakira nets 500,000 euros for charity with Spanish TV ad



MADRID, Spain (AFP) — Colombian pop star Shakira said she had taped a Christmas television ad for a Spanish sparkling wine in exchange for a donation of 500,000 euros

(660,000 dollars) to her charitable foundation.

The spot was filmed in Barcelona and the money paid by the company Freixenet will be used to build two schools, one in Haiti and the other in Colombia, the Grammy-winning singer told a Barcelona news conference.

"Education is a birthright and a quality education is the only tool that a child has to turn dreams into reality," the 33-year-old said.

"Since I was a girl I have been aware of the tough reality faced by many children."

Under the deal Freixenet will also produce a videoclip for Shakira's song "Sale el sol" as well as a documentary about the singer's philanthropic work, whose Pies Descalzos foundation already manages six schools in Colombia.

The advertisement is for cava, a popular drink in Spain to toast friends and family during year-end celebrations. Freixenet has traditionally hired an international star to feature in its annual Christmas campaign.

Oscar-winning US actress Liza Minnelli was the first to perform in a Freixenet Christ-

mas advertisement, singing the theme song from her hit film "Cabaret" in 1977.

An ageing Gene Kelly reprised "Singing in the Rain" in 1981, twirling his umbrella and clicking his heels as golden cava bubbles fell from the sky while Raquel Welch sang "I'm So Excited" in a see-through top in the spot that aired four years later.

But last year in a cost-cutting move the company repeated the previous year's campaign featuring Spain's synchronised swimming team.



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Number of world's poorest countries doubled since 1970s, says UN



Women gather in the village of Doukoukouné, central Niger to collect food aid.

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) – The number of very poor countries has doubled in the last 30 to 40 years, while the number of people living in extreme poverty has also grown two-fold, a UN think-tank warned.

In its annual report on the 49 least developed countries (LDCs) in the world, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said that the model of development that has prevailed to date for these countries has failed and should be re-assessed.

"The traditional models that have been applied to LDCs that tend to move the LDCs in the direction of trade-related growth seem not to have done very well," said Supachai Panitchpakdi, secretary general of UNCTAD.

"What happened is that in the past 30-40 years, the number of LDCs have doubled so it has actually deteriorated, the number of people living under the poverty line has doubled from the 1980s."

The report indicated that

the situation has sharply deteriorated in the past few years.

The number of individuals living in extreme poverty "increased by three million per year during the boom years of 2002 and 2007," reaching 421 million people in 2007.

While these countries proved somewhat resilient during the crisis, they are nevertheless very fragile, notably due to their dependence on imports.

"The import dependence has become quite devastating, the expenditure for LDCs on food imports rose from 9 billion dollars in 2002 to 23 billion in 2008," noted Supachai.

In addition, the economies in these countries are little diversified, with very weak improvements in domestic savings, a strong reliance on external savings and a faster depletion of natural resources, said UNCTAD.

"All these shortcomings are now hindering the nations' post-recession development prospects," it warned, calling on the countries to adopt a new structure of development.

Dutch prostitutes learn new tricks

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (AFP) – Dutch prostitute Terry van der Zijden proudly points to a photo she took of the bedroom in which she plies her trade; a sexless still-life neatly mounted on the wall of an Amsterdam art gallery.

"There is my bed, that is my bureau," she states matter-of-factly in front of a picture of a room with tranquil green linen, scatter cushions and potted flowers -- part of an exhibition entitled "This is my workplace" by sex workers who completed a photography course in June.

Van der Zijden works at home in the south Netherlands.

"It is a multi-functional space. It is suitable for having sex, but it is also where I sleep," explained the 65-year-old in a chaste skirt suit and red, high-heeled, leather boots.

Van der Zijden, whose pictures seem tame among those of dildos and studded leather restraints taken by some of her colleagues, said she hoped the exhibition will challenge people's prejudices.

"When people think about prostitutes, or whores as some call us, they have a certain image in their heads. I wanted to show that a sex worker can be making her living behind any arbitrary door," she said, pointing to another photo of her living room with a Humphrey Bogart poster on the wall, book shelves and a computer.

"Prostitutes are not just women who lie on their backs. We can also be photographers. We also have other interests."

Ex-prostitute and labour unionist Metje Blaak, 61, said the course she presented was paid from a government empowerment grant.

Twenty women took part, aged 20 to 65 from around the country, of whom 12 are exhibiting at the small Vriend van Bavink gallery around the corner from Amsterdam's famous red light district.

"Part of our aim was to help the women realise 'I can do more than that'," said Blaak, referring to sex work. "We want to give them confidence."

"Our goal is not to encourage women to leave the trade. But we want them to learn new skills so that they can leave if they want to."

Blaak, who quit the sex trade after 25 years in 1995 to become a professional photographer, said many women find it difficult to leave.

They have trouble putting aside a nest egg, often had few marketable skills, and lived in a cocoon they found hard to break free from.

"I myself was very afraid of



A prostitute waits for clients behind her window in the red light district of Amsterdam.

the big, bad world," Blaak recalls of the time she decided to quit.

Blaak said the women reacted enthusiastically to the idea of learning photography, eagerly soaking up the finer skills of portraiture, composition and lighting during one-to-two hour, weekly classes presented over a month.

"At the end, I gave them an assignment to photograph their work rooms. The results were so good that we decided to put on an exhibition," she said.

The result was 50 pictures that provide a revealing look behind the scenes: men trawling the streets for sex, a whimsical lipstick smear on a coffee cup, and ironic depictions of multi-coloured dildos, lingerie, whips and chains.

Brothel owner Willy van der Sloot, 57, halts at a picture she shot inside the room of one of her tenants.

"Those clothes pegs are for clamping nipples," she points and explains, giggling playfully.

Van der Sloot believes it is good that people "get a glimpse behind the curtains."

"I know how curious peo-

ple are. It is nice that they see what is inside, that they can get an idea of what happens there, to understand better."

Though the world's oldest profession was long tolerated in the Netherlands, it was only legalised in 2000.

According to Blaak's De Rode Draad (The Red Thread) labour union, there are about 25,000 sex workers in the Netherlands, working the streets, behind windows, in nightclubs, brothels, private homes, massage parlours and escort agencies.

Gallery owner Ruben Bunder said the opening of the exhibition was "one of my biggest ever" in five years, explaining that "sex always attracts clients."

A dozen of the photographs have been sold for up to 400 euros (about 550 dollars) each, the proceeds of which will go back to De Rode Draad for future projects.

Hundreds of people have seen the exhibition since it opened on November 3, said Bunder. "Due to popular demand, we have decided to extend the exhibition by a week, to December 3."

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Nadal rips umpire but marches into semis



LONDON (AFP) - Rafael Nadal launched a furious blast at umpire Carlos Bernardes as the world number one clinched his place in the semi-finals of the ATP World Tour Finals with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 win over Tomas Berdych on Friday.

Nadal felt aggrieved when Brazilian official Bernardes awarded a point to Berdych after the Czech sixth seed successfully challenged a call that his shot had gone out.

The Spaniard had stopped playing because Bernardes signalled the ball was out and felt the point should have been replayed. He responded to the decision with a prolonged rant at the umpire before eventually continuing the match.

The controversy actually worked in Nadal's favour as he took out his frustration on Berdych to secure the set he needed to reach the last four before eventually cruising to his third successive victory at the end-of-year event at London's O2 Arena.

Nadal qualifies as Group A winner and will play British number one Andy Murray, the Group B runner-up, in Saturday's semi-finals.

Berdych's heavy defeat means he has no chance of making the last four. The final matches of the round-robin stage can bring all manner of mathematical equations into play, but the sums for Nadal were simple - he just needed one set to go through.

Since 2007, Nadal had beaten Berdych in all seven of their meetings, with the last and most famous his straight sets victory in this year's Wimbledon final. The chance to avenge that defeat gave Berdych an extra incentive as he sought to follow Wednesday's impressive win over Roddick by claiming an even greater scalp.

He had a golden opportunity to take the initiative after earning two break points in Nadal's first service game, but the French and US Open champion wasn't fazed and came up with two winners to emerge unscathed. Berdych's serve was under pressure in the fifth game as Nadal won two break points,

however a fine forehand from the Czech was followed by a succession of booming serves to get him out of trouble.

Berdych's serve wasn't seriously threatened by Nadal for the rest of the set and a tie-breaker was needed to decide it, but not before the Spaniard let rip at Bernardes.

Nadal stopped playing as he felt the ball was out, but Berdych challenged the umpire's call that the backhand was long.

Replays showed the ball was in and Bernardes awarded the point to Berdych, even though Nadal felt it should have been replayed, prompting a furious protest from the 24-year-old.

Nadal responded to that perceived injustice by putting even more power behind his already-formidable groundstrokes.

Berdych had no answer to Nadal in this pumped-up mood and the Spaniard won the tie-break in convincing fashion.

Even with his semi-final place assured, there was no chance of a ferocious competitor like Nadal taking his foot off the gas, especially with that grievance still nagging away at him.

He broke in the fourth game of the second set after Berdych unwisely opted for a drop-shot from the baseline that flopped apologetically into the net.

Nadal went for the kill now and broke again for a 5-1 lead before serving out the match.



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Van Gaal insists all is rosy at Bayern



BERLIN (AFP) - At the end of a week when he was reprimanded by his club for taking a swipe at Frank Ribery in the media, Bayern Munich coach Louis van Gaal insisted that he still took pleasure from his job with the German champions.

On Thursday, Bayern's director of sport Christian Nerlinger took van Gaal to task for accusing Ribery of not putting enough effort into a friendly match designed to help the French international return to full fitness.

Nerlinger said of van Gaal: "He sometimes provokes and you shouldn't always take everything he says seriously."

"But he is not giving the best impression of us at the moment and we have to work on changing this."

Despite that rebuke van Gaal maintained Friday that

all was well at Bayern.

"The most important thing is the chemistry between my players and my staff. It's very good," he said.

And despite Bayern's position, 14 points adrift of Bundesliga leaders Borussia Dortmund, he described the first half of the season as having been "fantastic".

"We won the German Super-Cup, we have our ticket to the Champions League last 16, we're still in the running for the German Cup and we're only five points behind third place (in the league)," he stated.

"The only difference with last season is that Dortmund are further ahead than Leverkusen were at the same period."

"We all have to row in the same direction, and everything is possible (in the second half of the campaign)"

"I've said to my players that they must believe in themselves, that's the most important thing."

Van Gaal then disclosed he had had a meeting with Bayern directors on Thursday.

"Everything went very well," he reported.

Van Gaal is under contract until 2012, but with his side eighth in the table, Bayern's bosses are far from impressed with this season's performances after the Dutchman won the German league and cup double last season.

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Brady throws four TDs as Patriots rout Lions



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Tom Brady tossed four touchdown passes in the second half as the New England Patriots routed the Detroit Lions 45-24 Thursday at Ford Field.

Deion Branch and Wes Welker each caught a pair of touchdown passes for the Patriots, who broke the game open with a dominating second half.

"As far as today goes, it was a real good effort in the second half," Patriots head coach Bill Belichick said. "In the end it was a lot of guys stepping up and making plays."

The game was one of three National Football League contests being held on the United States Thanksgiving holiday.

At Cowboys Stadium in Texas, Drew Brees' 12-yard touchdown pass to Lance Moore following a Dallas fumble late in the final quarter lifted the New Orleans Saints to a 30-27 win over the Cowboys.

In the late game, Mark Sanchez completed 16-of-28 passes for 166 yards as the New York Jets defeated Cincinnati 26-10.

Welker's second touchdown catch from Brady with just under seven minutes left

clinched the win for New England (9-2). Branch and Brady also connected on a 79-yard pass in the fourth to tie the game.

New England now sits tied atop the AFC East with the Jets for the NFL's best record.

Detroit, who have just two wins in 11 games this season, suffered their seventh consecutive loss on Thanksgiving. The Lions led by 11 points in the first half before their second half meltdown.

"We played poor on defence to give up all those long plays," Lions head coach Jim Schwartz said. "Dropping coverage and man-to-man is not the way to play against a team that has a lot of firepower."

Brady completed 21-of-27 passes for 341 yards for the Patriots who have won three straight since a November 7 loss to Cleveland.

BenJarvus Green-Ellis rushed a dozen times for 59 yards and two touchdowns for New England.

There are some intriguing matchups on tap for Sunday's game, including the Atlanta Falcons against the Green Bay Packers who are both seeking to extend their win streaks to five games.

Green Bay, led by quarterback Aaron Rodgers, is tied on top of the NFC's North Division with Chicago with a 7-3 record.

The NFC encounter between two top Super Bowl contenders also features Matt Ryan's Falcons who have eight wins and two losses and own the NFC's best record.

Ryan has the Falcons averaging 31 points during their four-game winning streak. During that stretch, Ryan is averaging 275.8 yards with nine touchdowns and only one interception in the last four games. Rodgers is leading Green Bay with his superb passing attack over their last four games.

The Packers are also averaging 28 points per game despite losing star running back Ryan Grant to injury in the first week of the season.

Rodgers tossed for 301 yards and a career-high four touchdowns in a 31-3 win at Minnesota last Sunday.

The San Diego Chargers can win their fifth game in the last six with a victory over the Indianapolis Colts this weekend.

This is San Diego's third trip to Indianapolis in just over five years.

"They are a team that creates problems for you just in terms of matchups," Colts' head coach Jim Caldwell said. "It's been a real battle with them throughout the years as well."

The surprising Tampa Bay Buccaneers will try to hand the Baltimore Ravens their first home loss in more than a year on Sunday.

Baltimore (7-3) and Pittsburgh are tied for the AFC North lead in a race that could leave the winner with a first-round bye in the post-season.

Ski queen Vonn seeks to snap Aspen drought



ASPEN, Colorado (AFP) - Lindsey Vonn, the undisputed queen of Alpine skiing for the past three seasons, has been the victim of a curse in Aspen, the lone stop for the ladies on the World Cup tour in the US.

With no podium to her credit in Aspen, Vonn will be hoping to change that this weekend when the giant slalom takes place today followed by a slalom race on Sunday.

The 26-year-old Vonn has raced 15 times in Aspen with her best finish being a fourth in the downhill three years ago and a fourth in the slalom in 2008.

Despite her drought at home, Vonn is the most decorated American female ski racer ever.

She captured two Winter

Olympic medals in Vancouver, including gold in downhill, and is gunning for her fourth straight overall World Cup crown. Nobody has won four consecutive titles since Austria's Annemarie Moser-Proell captured five straight from 1971-75.

Vonn added a bronze in the 2010 Olympic super-G to her gold in downhill. She finished the gruelling World Cup campaign by wrapping up her third consecutive crystal globe award.

Vonn's biggest single rival this season is Germany's Maria Riesch, but the mighty Austrians will also be trying to dethrone her.

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Black Eyed Peas to perform at Super Bowl 2011

Black Eyed Peas will perform at next year's Super Bowl, it's been announced.

The group will play the half-time show on February 6 at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Black Eyed Peas will follow in the footsteps of The Who, Rolling Stones and Prince, who have all performed at the spectacle.

The teams for the 2011 contest have yet to be determined.

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'King Otto' to be honoured by Greeks

ATHENS (AFP) - Former Greece national team coach Otto Rehhagel will be honoured during an international friendly between Greece and Canada on February 9 2011, the Greek Football Federation announced Friday.

The match will be held at the newly-built AEL FC stadium which hosts first division club Larissa and seats 16,118 spectators.

Rehhagel, 72, coached Greece for 106 matches from August 2001 to this summer's World Cup, registering 53 wins, 23 draws and 30 defeats.

The German coach, known as 'King Otto' in Greece, is best known for leading his team to a surprise Euro 2004 title and participation in Euro 2008 and the 2010 World Cup.

Rehhagel was succeeded by Portugal's Fernando Santos who is so far undefeated after six matches.



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Kaymer closing in on Europe top spot

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - The leaderboard at the halfway stage of Dubai World Championship on Friday had a distinct English flavour, but Martin Kaymer remained the man of the moment at the Earth course of Jumeirah Golf Estates.

England's Ross Fisher matched the course record eight-under par 64 to vault to the top at nine-under par 135, and was joined there later in the day by Ian Poulter, who continued his superb run of form with a 66.

One behind the leading duo was the defending champion Lee Westwood after his 67, while Paul Casey was the



fourth player from England in the top-six. Casey (67) and Thailand's Thongchai Jaidee (69) were at seven-under par 137.

But it was the other player at seven-under par 137, Mar-

tin Kaymer, who has been the talk of the golfing world.

The German looks all set to become the new European No.1 on Sunday after his only challenger, Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell, could

only manage a one-over par 73 and slipped to tied 42nd place.

McDowell needs to finish inside the top-three on Sunday to have any chance of denying Kaymer, who remained in touch with the leaders after a battling round of two-under par 70.

Poulter, winner of Hong Kong Open last week, is bogey-free after the first 36 holes here, and has dropped only two shots (in the final round of Hong Kong) in his last six rounds.

On Friday, he began with four birdies in his first four holes, then took a breather, and added two more on the

back nine for his 66.

"Very, very pleased with the round," Poulter said.

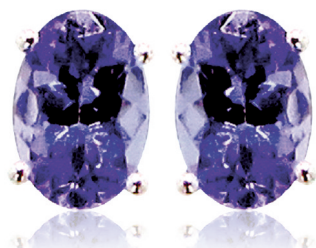
"Obviously, carrying some form from last week, driving the ball in the fairway an awful lot. I think I missed one fairway today by a couple of inches.

Kaymer said he did not hit the ball as well as Thursday's opening round, but he wasn't going to complain much about a two-under par 70 round.

"I didn't really hit a lot of greens. I struggled a little bit to save pars. I made a 3 putt on the par 3, On the back nine, I didn't really give myself a lot of chances for birdies.

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